



The Elba Clipper

Volume 123, Number 08

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, July 18, 2019

2 Sections, 10 Pages

Elba Police make drug arrests

The Elba Police Department made a couple of drug arrests earlier this week that sent two individuals to jail.

On Sunday, July 14, Adam Graham, age 32, of Elba, was arrested by Elba officers and charged with possession of a controlled substance, as well as, a felony charge of probation violation. He was booked Sunday morning in the Coffee County Jail, and jail records showed that he remained there as of press time this week.

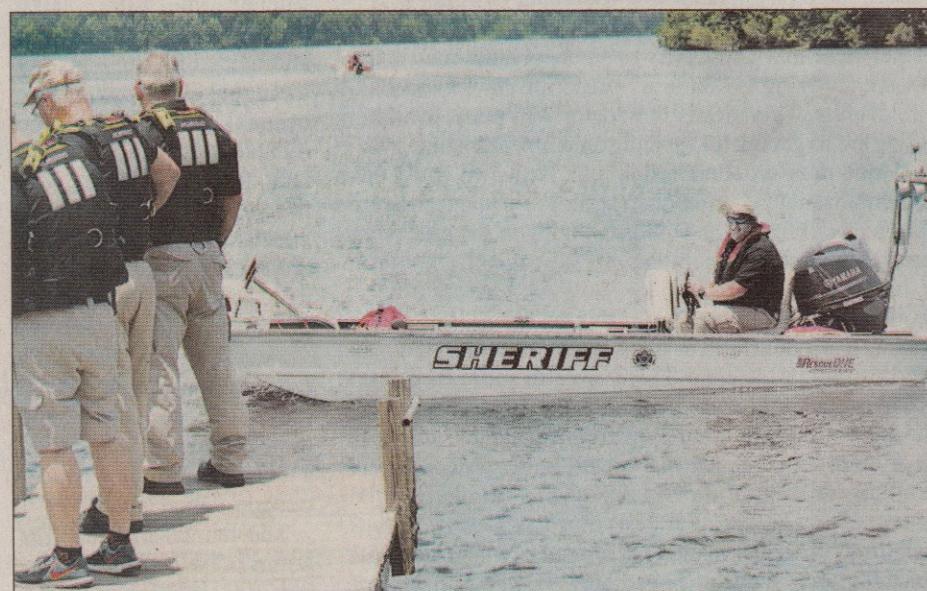
On Monday, July 15, Elba Police arrested Michael Jordan, age 38, of Troy, Ala., on multiple charges.

Jordan was charged with possession of



Adam Graham (l), Michael Jordan (r)

marijuana – second degree, theft of property – fourth degree, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was booked in the Coffee County Jail and later released on bail. This too was according to jail records.



THE COFFEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT responded to a request for help Tuesday, July 16, from the Opp Police Department. The Opp officials needed assistance in searching for the body of a crime victim in Lake Frank Jackson. A team, under the leadership of Chief Deputy Ronnie Whitworth, was dispatched immediately from Coffee County to assist and were on the water shortly after noon. Their first search area was North of the Highway 331 bridge. At presstime there was no news of anyone finding any evidence related to a crime. The above photo shows the Coffee County searchers, and other boats, as they were launching their search boat from the boat ramp in Frank Jackson Park.

National Weather Service meteorologist speaks at CPYRWMA meeting held in Enterprise, Ala.

by Jack West, Intern

The Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority [CPYRWMA] hosted two representatives from the National Weather Service in Tallahassee at their meeting Tuesday, July 9th.

The Enterprise Farmer's Market housed the meeting, and after CPYRWMA chairman Ronnie Hudson called the meeting to order, Mayor Bill Cooper of Enterprise gave a brief introduction.

"Our doors are open," Cooper said. "I appreciate the job that you all do. If there is anything that we can do to help or to provide for you, we will feel free to do so."

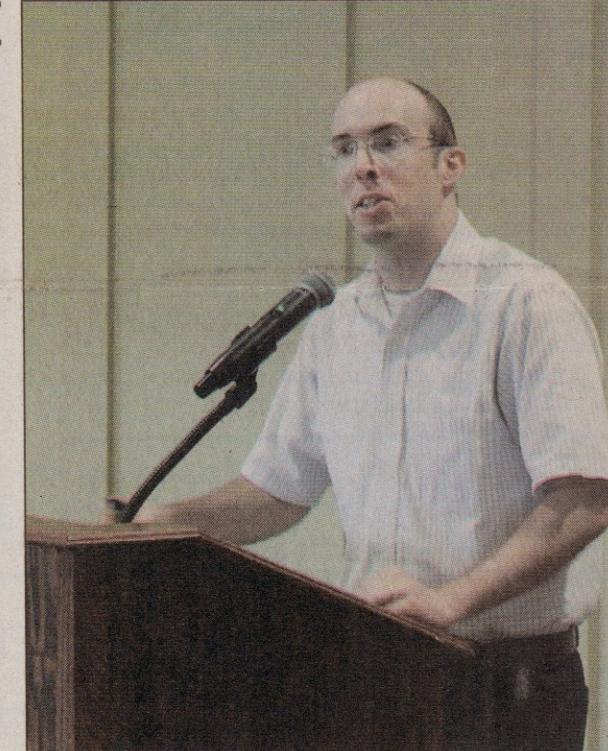
According to information provided by Barbara Gibson, executive director of CPYRWMA, the Authority was established in 1991, following the devastating flood of 1990. The Authority currently monitors 2,328,000 acres of land and is governed by a 16-member volunteer board of directors.

The day's speaker, Kelly Godsey, is a National Weather Service Senior Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist in Tallahassee, Florida. Godsey said he has been interested in tropical cyclones since he was young and has been working with the National Weather Service since 2003.

According to Godsey, the predictions made at his office combine the water levels at the top and bottom of a given river basin with observed and expected rainfall to determine what level of flooding is possible or expected. Those predictions can then be turned into maps and graphs which are distributed to residents and emergency workers in the area.

"We like to think in terms of impacts – how people are being affected and how significant those impacts are," Godsey said.

Following Godsey's presentation, the CPYRWMA held their business session before adjourning.



Kelly Godsey, a National Weather Service Senior Service Hydrologist/Meteorologist in Tallahassee, Florida spoke July 9th at a Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers Watershed Management Authority meeting held in Enterprise.

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BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

"The basis of a democratic state is liberty." - Aristotle

New research from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and Stony Brook University found that the language used in Facebook posts can help identify conditions such as diabetes, anxiety, depression and psychosis. Researchers analyzed the entire Facebook post history of nearly 1,000 patients who had their medical record data linked to their profiles. The study found that all of the 21 medical conditions the researchers assessed were predictable from Facebook posts alone. "As social media posts are often about someone's lifestyle choices and experiences or how they're feeling, this information could provide additional information about disease management and exacerbation," said physician Raina Merchant of Penn.

Another field that University of Pennsylvania med school folks are studying is "natural" prescriptions rather than a bottle of pills. This means the doctor will put it in writing that you are to get out and spend some time in nature to help your blood pressure, depression, etc. Now, we could have told them that a generation or so ago! As a teenager we used quiet time walking in the woods (or lying in the pine straw) to create those serene moments.

Bitcoin's value has trebled so far this year and is back above \$10,000. Cryptocurrencies are like a virus that won't die. They keep metastasizing. There are still more than 2,000 cryptocurrencies in existence, and their theoretical total value is about \$318 billion! However, if you have a few million of them, don't hold your breath until someone hands you all that money for them.

A longtime subscriber mailed her annual payment last week. Upon opening it, a note dropped out. We always like those, even if they are fussing at us. This lady was paying her bill but asking for prayers because she is one of the many who had a total loss of their home near the beach last year. Having lived through a couple of major disasters, our heart goes out to all those folks. It was also with greater gratitude that she was still renewing her subscription to the home town newspaper in spite of all her personal issues.

Our unidentified 'friend' who continues to FAX us volumes and volumes of what we consider off-the-wall far-far right political statements, accusations against democrats (with small d), etc., and claims that everyone is conspiring against . . . well everybody else . . . hit us again last week. We walked in the office at 8:00 a.m. to a thick pile of anti Islamic, anti police, anti U. S. Supreme Court papers in our FAX machine. This unknown person warns about the coming 'one currency world' with pages of detailed proof in little tiny type and sends us an alleged letter from an Iranian to Donald Trump about how the Muslims will never accept peace because they just like to kill people and Americans are idiots for not getting tougher with his countrymen. OH, we also get previously unheard of reports about all of the girlfriends these male politicians have on the string. All the phone numbers are blacked out, so we can't block that number, nor can we call and demand it cease. Whoever this person is, we beg him or her to find someone else to upset by wasting their good clean FAX machine paper. We glace at it, say some unkind words that mama would scold us about and trash the whole stack . . . again.

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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$21 per year
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6 months - \$13
Outside Alabama - \$27 per year - 6 months - \$15

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EDITORIAL

Due to technical difficulty

Scheduled rocket launch at Elba High this week postponed

by Jack West, Intern

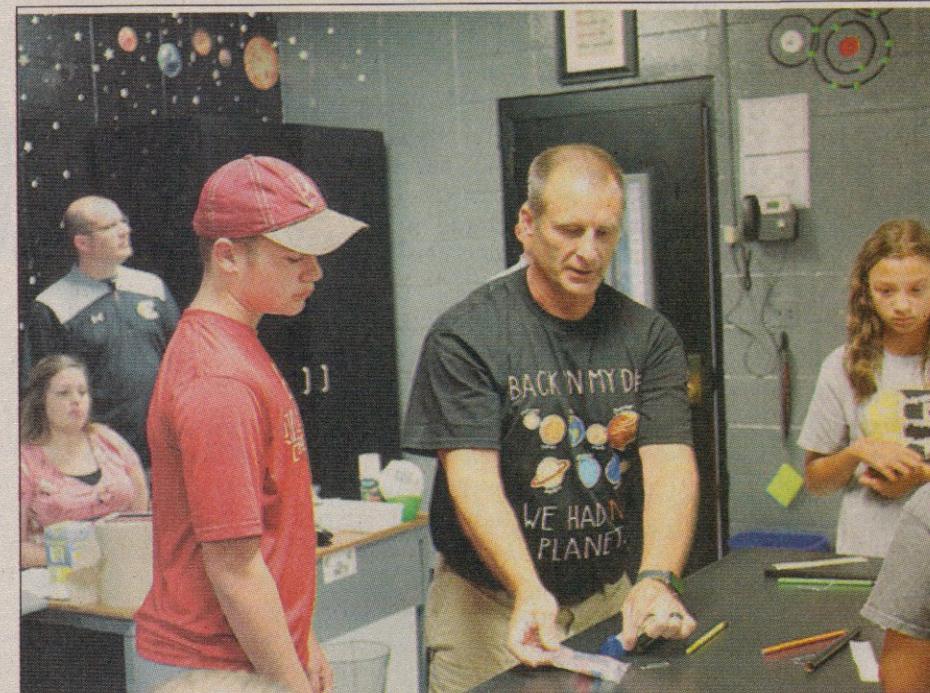
Houston, We Have a Problem...

On Tuesday, July 16, junior-high students in Elba built rockets with their science teacher to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Saturn V rocket launch which took the first astronauts to the moon.

Phillip Smith, science teacher at Elba High School, planned the launch and helped his students put their rockets together. The original plan was for the rockets to be built and launched on Tuesday, but the launch had to be postponed after Smith learned the rocket engines he had were too large to fit inside the prepared fuselages.

Nevertheless, the kids (and some parents) said they had fun putting the rockets together and getting a tour of Smith's newly decorated science lab.

The launch in Elba was going to be part of a country-wide attempt to break the world record for the most rockets launched in a day. That morning, the US Space & Rocket Center in



Elba junior high science teacher Phillip Smith is shown helping students building rockets for a scheduled launch on Tuesday morning, July 16; however, a 'technical difficulty' forced the launch to be postponed for now. This had been planned as part of a country-wide attempt to break the world record for most rockets launched in a day to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Saturn V rocket launch, which took the first astronauts to the moon. The Elba launch will be rescheduled at a later date, but those involved Tuesday morning with the activity said they still had a 'blast' building the rockets for launch.

Huntsville, Alabama launched nearly 5,000 model rockets in an attempt to break the record for the most rockets launched at

one time. According to Smith, Elba's rocket launch will be rescheduled once the correct-sized rockets are here.

Wernher von Braun, the late German rocket-scientist who designed the Saturn V rocket, probably ran into the same problem.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Monday, July 8, and Sunday, July 14, made the following arrests: four on warrants, and one for domestic violence.

There were 15 traffic citations and 31 traffic warnings [verbal and written] issued by Elba Police officers during the timeframe of July 8 - July 14.

MONDAY, JULY 8 - Officers responded to the scene of an accident on Packing House Rd (5:59 a.m.); Officers responded to a business on Factory Ave in reference to damaged property (8:10 a.m.); Officers responded to a complaint of an assault that happened earlier in the evening on Morrow Ave - report taken (10:07 p.m.); Officers responded to a complaint on Morrow Ave - a close patrol requested (11:07 p.m.).

TUESDAY, JULY 9 - Officers responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision with no injuries in area of Hwy 203 near Taylor Crossings (11:54 a.m.); Officers responded to a business in the area of Claxton Ave S in reference to a report of property damage (12:43 a.m.); Officers responded to a call referencing a theft at a residence on Pinedale Dr (2:47 p.m.); Officers responded to a residence on County Rd 368 in reference to the breaking and entering of a storage shed (5:55 p.m.); Officers responded to a business on Hwy 203 in reference to a possible breaking and entering (6:30 p.m.); Officers responded to a business on Claxton Ave N in reference to a report of harassment (10:35 p.m.).

THURSDAY, JULY 11 - Officer met with a complainant on Taylor Mill Rd in reference to a broken window at the subject's house (1:41 a.m.); Officers responded to a call referencing a suspicious subject walking down Taylor Mill Rd - subject was transported to the Coffee/Covington county line (2:22 a.m.); Officer assisted a Samson officer with a call referencing a reckless

driver they had pulled over in the Elba Jurisdiction on Hwy 87 (11:21 a.m.); Officers responded to a single vehicle wreck on Hwy 166 - officers advised no one was around the vehicle and no property damage (11:46 a.m.); Officers responded to a call referencing an unwanted guest on Morrow Ave - this was a juvenile issue and subject was transported to another location (11:25 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 - Officers responded to a report of a motor vehicle collision with no injuries in area of Hwy 203 near Taylor Crossings (11:54 a.m.); Officers responded to a business on W Davis St - subject was advised to leave the property (12:43 a.m.); Officers responded to a call of a subject laying on the sidewalk in front of a business on W Davis St - officer advised the subject was transported to a local ER by Haynes Ambulance for minor injuries and one subject went by person vehicle for minor injuries (11:05 p.m.).

FRIDAY, JULY 12 - Officers responded to a report of criminal mischief at a business on W Davis St - subject was advised to leave the property (12:43 a.m.); Officers responded to a call of a subject laying on the sidewalk in front of a business on W Davis St - officer advised the subject was transported to a local ER by Haynes Ambulance for minor injuries and one subject went by person vehicle for minor injuries (11:05 p.m.).

SUNDAY, JULY 14 - Officer met with a complainant in reference to possible animal abandonment on Collier St (10:23 a.m.); Officers assisted Elba Fire on Morrow Ave in reference to a grass fire (12:22 p.m.); Officer met with a complainant in reference to items found at the intersection of County Rd 359 and County Rd 364 - Coffee County deputies were advised the property was at the police department (12:50 p.m.); Officers responded to a call referencing someone walking around with flashlights at a property on Sawyer St - officer got out with a subject and upon investigation determined that subject had warrants for arrest (9:16 p.m.); Officer advised he was out with a subject on Martin Luther King Dr and upon investigation determined that subject had warrants for arrest (9:48 p.m.).

SATURDAY, JULY 13 - Officer met with a complainant at a business on Hwy 203 in reference to a theft (11:57 a.m.); Officers assisted Haynes EMS at a residence on Neil Grantham shooting fireworks in the

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The Elba Clipper

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e-mail clipper@troycable.net

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Job Opening

Coffee County Highway Department Equipment Operator

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, operate medium and heavy equipment, trucks, and other vehicles to construct, maintain, and improve roads and drainage systems. Perform additional tasks as assigned. Experience preferred. Must possess a Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Non CDL applicants may apply but must obtain CDL within 6 months of employment. Fringe benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, health insurance, holidays and State retirement. Salary is dependent upon experience. Closing date is July 21, 2019.

Coffee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The City of Elba is now accepting applications for the position of Mechanic Assistant

Opening Date: Immediately
Closing Date: July 19, 2019

Job Summary:

- Assist Chief Mechanic in general overhaul, electrical and mechanical repair work on city vehicles on various types of trucks and cars.
- Assist in performing maintenance inspections and needed services on various city vehicles.
- Maintain a clean and orderly shop area.
- Assist in maintaining, servicing, preserving and safeguarding tools and property worked on or utilized in shop.

Job Requirements:

- Ability to understand and follow technical repair manuals and written or oral instructions for various vehicles.
- Ability to perform heavy lifting and work in difficult positions.
- Ability to drive and operate various type vehicles.

Benefits: The City of Elba offers BCBS Health and Dental Insurance, State Retirement, paid vacation, sick time and holiday pay.

Salary: Based on experience and qualifications.

Applications are available at:
Elba City Hall, 200 Buford Street, Elba, AL
All applications should be submitted to City Hall.
EOE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Coffee County Highway Department
Mechanic's Helper**

Job Description: Perform tire repairs, minor maintenance and services on various motorized vehicles and assist with repairs to heavy construction equipment and other duties as assigned. Experience Preferred. Qualifications: Valid Driver's License. Fringe Benefits: Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Health Insurance, Holidays, and State Retirement. Starting Salary: \$10.86. Closing Date is August 2, 2019.

Please apply www.coffeecounty.us.
Coffee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The City of Elba is now accepting applications for the position of Machine Operator

Opening Date: Immediately.
Closing Date: July 19th.

Job summary:

- Operates light, medium and heavy equipment
- Operates jack hammer
- Performs manual labor in accomplishing assigned work
- Utilizes hand and power saws, axes and sling blades at work site

Requirements of job:

- Working knowledge of the practices applied in use, care and safe operation of various types of equipment
- Ability to understand and follow oral or written instructions
- Ability to work harmoniously with other employees
- Have CDL or ability to obtain one

Benefits: The City of Elba offers BCBS Health and Dental Insurance, State Retirement, paid vacation, sick time and holiday pay.

Salary: Based on experience and qualifications.

Applications are available at:
Elba City Hall, 200 Buford Street Elba, AL
All applications should be submitted to City Hall
EOE

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2-Vintage baby bed & 1 Playpen

\$10.00 Each

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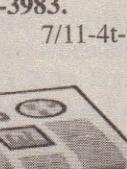
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located on .73 acres in Kinston. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, family room with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, central heat/air with back deck and side porch.

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7/11-4t-pd.

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\$300 each (3) 10x10 Tops Blue and Yellow

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1991 Ford F150 w/ 302 Motor \$500

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7/18/pd

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CHURCH NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

ELDER JOHNATHAN LOCKETT
HARRIS TEMPLE C.O.G.I.C.

Galatians 5:1 KJV

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Freedom! How many know the power of Freedom? In each heart of a human lies the deepest desire in life... freedom. When you examine history, you'll find that as far as we can trace in ages past and present people everywhere have laid down their lives to win freedom. Even in this very hour our best, bravest, and brightest spill their blood on foreign soil so that others might know this freedom.

Freedom! We live in the midst of the greatest incarnation of freedom in human history. Though we are surrounded by unmatched political and social freedom, not all possess real freedom for they carry a heavy load of enslaving chains that makes freedom a dream. Their chains are not visible to the naked eye. These are not the chains of a human tyrant whose goal is to silence their mouths from talking. These are the chains of the Prince of this world whose goal is to kill, steal and destroy their souls. While their bodies live in freedom, their souls are tightly locked in spiritual bondage. Their face may not tell you of their chains. But their eyes will reveal their pain. And if their voices could describe their greatest wish, they would tell you how they long for just one moment of liberty from the demons of their darkness.

Freedom! There is a source of freedom — real, soul deep freedom — that is greater than any chains the devil can forge. It is a freedom greater than the chains of addiction. We know it is so because we have seen the source of this perfect freedom instantly liberate the lives of those who have used alcohol or drugs for a lifetime in order to self-medicate their pain. This freedom I speak of is stronger than any chains of demon possession or deep despair. We know it is true because we have seen it reach out and rescue those struggling to survive the ills and thrills of this world.

I encourage you to take a moment and ask God to grant freedom from whatever chains that may have you bound. Chains of depression, fear, anxiety...chains of low self-esteem, procrastination, self-doubt and worry! Chains of defeat, victimization and sabotage. You can have whatever you say! Rehearse it, Repeat it, Recite it and Say it...I'm no longer bound...I'm free at last because Christ has set me free.

I want to let you know today that the scriptures clearly state, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Walk in your liberty...walk in your freedom! It's a great day to live on Purpose!

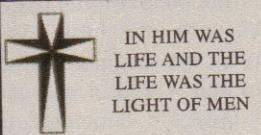
The Cavaliers quartet set to perform July 27th at Newbia Baptist Church

The Cavaliers Quartet will be in concert at Newbia Baptist Church, 3819 County Rd. 330, Elba, on Saturday, July 27, beginning at 5 p.m.

There is no admission charge to attend this concert, but a love offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Current group members are brothers Anthony and

Church News is due on Mondays!



COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Diana White, Pastor
Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night (Youth Real Deal and Children's Activities) 6:00 p.m.

ABUNDING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rocky Pearce, Pastor
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 5:00 p.m.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH SAMSON, Ala.
Richard Thorn Sr., Pastor
Morn. Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m.

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sam, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Training 5:00 p.m.
Even. Worship 6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BETHEL AME CHURCH
Rev. Deborah A. Butler, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Greg Coker, Pastor
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 10:00 a.m.
Disciple Train 5:30 p.m.
Even. Worship 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Senn, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPT CHURCH
Robert Davis, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship 6:00 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST
Rev. Remonia Smith
Church Service 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH
Larry Mills, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Night 7:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPT. CHURCH
Lovel Martin, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Steve Reneau, Pastor
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 10:00 a.m.
Even. Services 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC
W. K. Ellison, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Service 6:00 p.m.

ELBA 1st BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Anderson, Interim Pastor
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service 6:30 p.m.

HAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Steve Reneau, Pastor
Morn. Worship 8:45 a.m.

HAW HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Shirlee Ellis, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Services 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

HEBRON BAPT. CHURCH
Mark Cooper, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH
Dewey Emfinger, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet 6:30 p.m.

MT. GILDED BAPTIST CHURCH
Olan Strickland, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Kevin Byrd, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Loreal Flowers, Minister
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

NEW VERNON ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Max Reed, Minister
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

THE WAY OF HOLINESS CHURCH, Elba
Larry Mills, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service 7:00 p.m.

ZOAR COMMUNITY CHURCH
John Isaacs, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service 7:00 p.m.

Harris Temple COGIC set to host community VBS, July 18-July 20

Harris Temple COGIC will host its Community Vacation Bible School on July 18-20. VBS classes will take place on Thursday [18th] and Friday [19th] from 6:30 p.m. each night. On Saturday [20th],

Harris Temple will host a Back to School Bash at Mulberry Heights Park beginning at 2 p.m.

There will be classes available for all ages, including adults! Everyone is invited to attend.

Bluff Springs Baptist Church plans July 21st Homecoming

Bluff Springs Baptist Church will be celebrating Homecoming with special services on Sunday, July 21, 2019.

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.,

Fun Day event set for July 27th at Mt. Gilead Church, Hwy. 87, Elba

Mt. Gilead Church, located at 7638 Hwy 87, Elba, Ala., will host a Fun Day on Saturday, July 27th.

There will be free food

and fun for all! The event will be from 12 noon until 4 p.m. and is for children and adults.

Bring a towel!

Zoar Cemetery meeting set for July 27

The Zoar Cemetery Association has been meeting on Saturday before the fourth Sunday each July since 1988.

The annual business meeting for Zoar Cemetery will be held Saturday, July

27, at 10 a.m. at Zoar Cemetery. A financial report will be given and project work outlined for 2019-2020.

Everyone interested in the care and upkeep of the cemetery is encouraged to attend this meeting.

IN THE WILD

AMAZING ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

IN THE WILD

SPORTS NEWS

Views From The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

It is almost time to take our grandson Lawson school shopping, and one day last week after looking at the list of things needed for school he declared, "All that stuff will cost one-hundred dollars." The list was long, but one day soon we will head out and get our little third-grader his new school clothes and supplies, and then take a deep breath when we realize just how fast he is growing up.

For what it is worth....

*** **Kinston High School went hunting** and found a jewel last week when it named former Elba Tiger head coach Karl Bledsoe as the Bulldogs new head basketball coach. The tradition rich Bulldog basketball program has struggled for the past couple of seasons, but the players never quit playing hard and taking pride in their team, and they should all be excited about their new head coach. Coach Bledsoe is an old school disciplinarian and is one of the most knowledgeable coaches I have ever watched on the court. His teams play hard and smart, and back when he was at Elba I had one coach that I greatly respect say that he hated to play against teams coached by Coach Bledsoe because even though you had an idea what he was going to do, you still couldn't stop it. It may take a little while for the Bulldogs to settle in to the new system, but all the fans in Kinston will get excited from day one and will once again be proud to follow the team and cheer for the Bulldogs. Coach Bledsoe can coach and be successful at any school in the state, at any level, and it will be fun to watch the 'ole ball coach back on the court.

*** **While on the subject of coaching**, I have always laughed at how once a coach gets to the college or professional level he is a coach for life, and no matter what happens, seems to always find a new team to hook up with. Well, the coaching carousel at the high school level is also fun to watch, and recently has made some interesting stops. Folks from over in the big city of Enterprise have made the migration to New Brockton, while the folks from New Brockton have found their way to Elba, and the Elba folks have headed down to Kinston. I'll always bleed black and gold and support the Elba Tigers, but I will admit that with Rudy Free being the head football coach at Kinston, Marty Marler joining the staff as an assistant and Karl Bledsoe taking over the basketball program I will keep an eye on what is going on down the road, even if they do wear orange and blue.

*** **School and city officials in Dothan** are close to making a decision about building a track and field facility, and some of the options announced last week were very interesting. A couple of possible locations for the facility include Walton Park, which includes 24 acres that are unused, and brings with it a price tag of \$6.9 million; Doug Tew Recreation Complex, the cheapest option at \$4.8 million that is located behind the old Dothan High building and would require the demolition of the baseball field; and, Northcutt Field, which will involve raising the home bleachers, addition of visitors seating, as well as new locker rooms and concession stand, at a cost of \$6.1 million. While those plans drew a lot of attention, the ones that raised the most eyebrows involved Rip Hewes Stadium. One plan, with a base cost of \$11.5 million, called for the demolition of the visitor's bleachers and removal of Pitman Field, with new aluminum bleachers to be installed, as well as new locker rooms and concession stands. This would create seating for 9,511 people and serve both football and track programs. The plan that drew the most attention was one that included the demolition of both sides of Rip Hewes Stadium, the removal of a tennis court, and the removal of Pitman Field. With the addition of parking, new locker rooms and new concession stands, the projected cost of this plan is \$13.1

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million. That total would go to over \$14 million with the addition of synthetic turf and a video board, and the new stadium would seat over 11,000. I agree that Dothan needs a track facility, but idea to make changes at Rip Hewes Stadium seems more like a way to upgrade the aging football stadium than to build a new track facility.

*** **The website AL.com released its list** of the top 101 high school athletes from the 2018-2019 school year, and two area female athletes were both included in the top ten as G.W. Long softball standout Libby Baker came in at #4 and Pleasant Home two-sport standout River Baldwin came in at #10. Headland's K'Shun Stokes, an all-state performer in football and basketball was listed at #18, and others making the list included Abbeville's Jaquon Kinsey at #21 and G.W. Long's Matt Snell at #54. The list did provide some interesting reading, but really wasn't all that impressive and was compiled to attract readership for the online site.

*** **Auburn University, at Montgomery (AUM)** made the move to NCAA Division II status official last week and is now a full time member of the Gulf South Conference. All 11 varsity programs are now eligible to compete in conference and NCAA post-season play, and the three-year process has moved the Senators from NAIA into the NCAA D2 ranks, which includes over 300 schools from across the

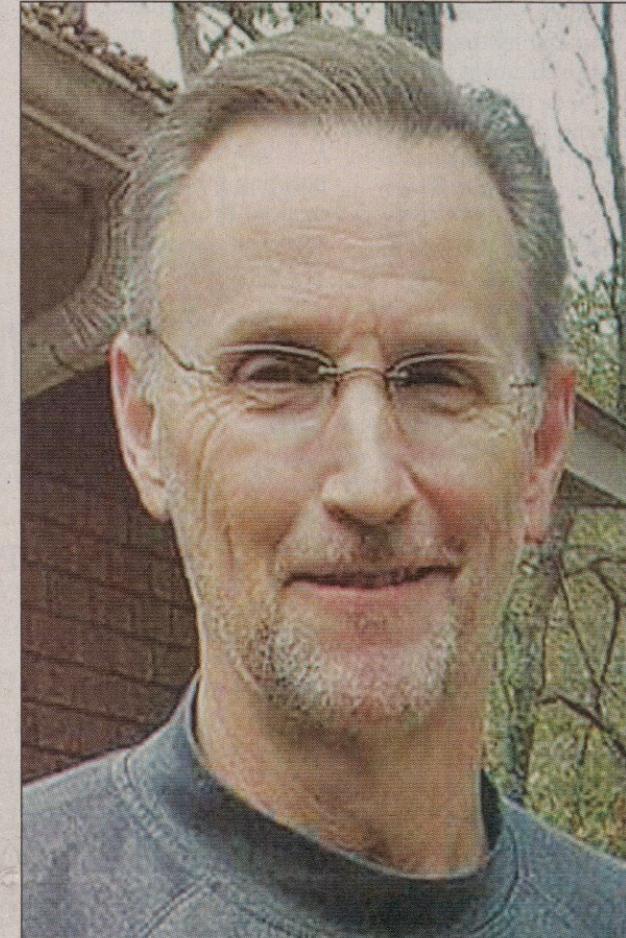
nation.

*** **The NCAA has ruled** that Tennessee Vol football coach Jeremy Pruitt committed a minor violation recently when he tweeted congratulations to the Plainview High School basketball team and its coaches after winning the Alabama 3A state title in basketball. Pruitt is a Plainview graduate and a lifelong supporter of the school and its athletic program, but the NCAA deemed that the tweet was an "impermissible endorsement of a high school team and its coach." The NCAA now allows players in all sports to move from one college to another whenever they feel they aren't getting to play enough and give players second and third chances when they test positive for drugs, but get serious when a coach congratulates his alma mater. What a joke!

*** In closing.... my youngest brother Gary passed away last week at the age of 61 after a long battle with a liver illness, and I have spent the past few days thinking back to our days growing up and being a part of close knit family that loved each other and loved the Lord. Gary went to school in Elba through the tenth grade, when my parents moved to Florida, and while he has been out of Elba for over forty years, it was heart warming to hear from his friends that grew up with him and to know that he was remembered and will always be remembered as a friend.

At Kinston High School

Bledsoe is back on the court



COACH KARL BLEDSOE.... will be back on the basketball court this season after accepting the position of head coach at Kinston High.

a 39-4 slate. His most successful span was in 2013-2016, when the Tigers posted a remarkable 73-14 record and went 33-0 in regular season area games, area tournaments, sub-region and region contests.

"I enjoyed my retirement," added Coach Bledsoe, "but once a coach, always a coach, and I never really gave up the thought that one day I may coach again. I got out of coaching at Elba after being named the principal at the Elba Elementary School, simply because the job as a principal required my full-time attention. The chance to get

back into coaching with no administration duties attracted me and this was the right job at the right time. I had other coaching opportunities since I retired, but the timing wasn't right. I have been a coach all my life and love coaching the game of basketball, and will bring that love of the game with me to Kinston."

Bledsoe began his coaching career at Monroe Academy in 1987-88 before heading out of state to Georgia, where he coached for one season at both Stewart-Quittman and Echols County. He returned to Alabama and led the Geneva Panthers for six years, then moved to Greenville High School for three years, before joining the staff at Elba High in 2000. He was the assistant principal at Elba High from 2009-2014 and the interim high school principal from 2014-2015.

Coach Bledsoe stated that Kinston High principal Danny Branch approached him several months ago about the coaching opening, but didn't make a commitment due to the health of his ailing mother. As her health improved, the thought of a return to coaching became more intriguing, and the lifelong coaching veteran decided the time was right to head back to the gym.

His career at Elba was highlighted by the 2013-2014 state title team that posted a 27-2 record, and avenged both losses with a 66-61 win over Luverne in the state championship game. His final Tiger team posted a 13-11 record and lost to St. Luke's in sub-region action.

"I met with Mr. Branch and athletic director/head football coach Rudy Free and I really liked what I heard," said Bledsoe. "I even went to a couple of workouts before I actually committed to become the head coach, and was impressed with the work ethic and attitude of the players. It was a combination of Mr. Branch, Coach Free and the work ethic of the players that convinced me this was the right place for me to get back into coaching. The players are eager to work hard and win, and you can tell they are dedicated to being a Kinston Bulldog."

Kinston posted a 10-14 record last season, its first double-digit win season since the 2014-2015 season, and hasn't posted a winning season since going 22-9 back in 2010-2011.

"There is no doubt that Kinston plays in one of the toughest basketball areas in the state," added Bledsoe. "Elba makes it to the region tournament almost every season, Brantley has a rich tradition that includes a number of state titles and Flora is supposed to have one of its best teams ever and is considered a state tournament contender. Every time we take the court in area play it will be a challenge, but every game is a challenge and it is how you meet that challenge that makes you a champion. Our goal from day one will be to win a state title, and that will never change. We will work hard to prepare for the season and will approach each game one at a time. A basketball season is a marathon, not a sprint, and we will work to finish that marathon strong and at the end be in front."

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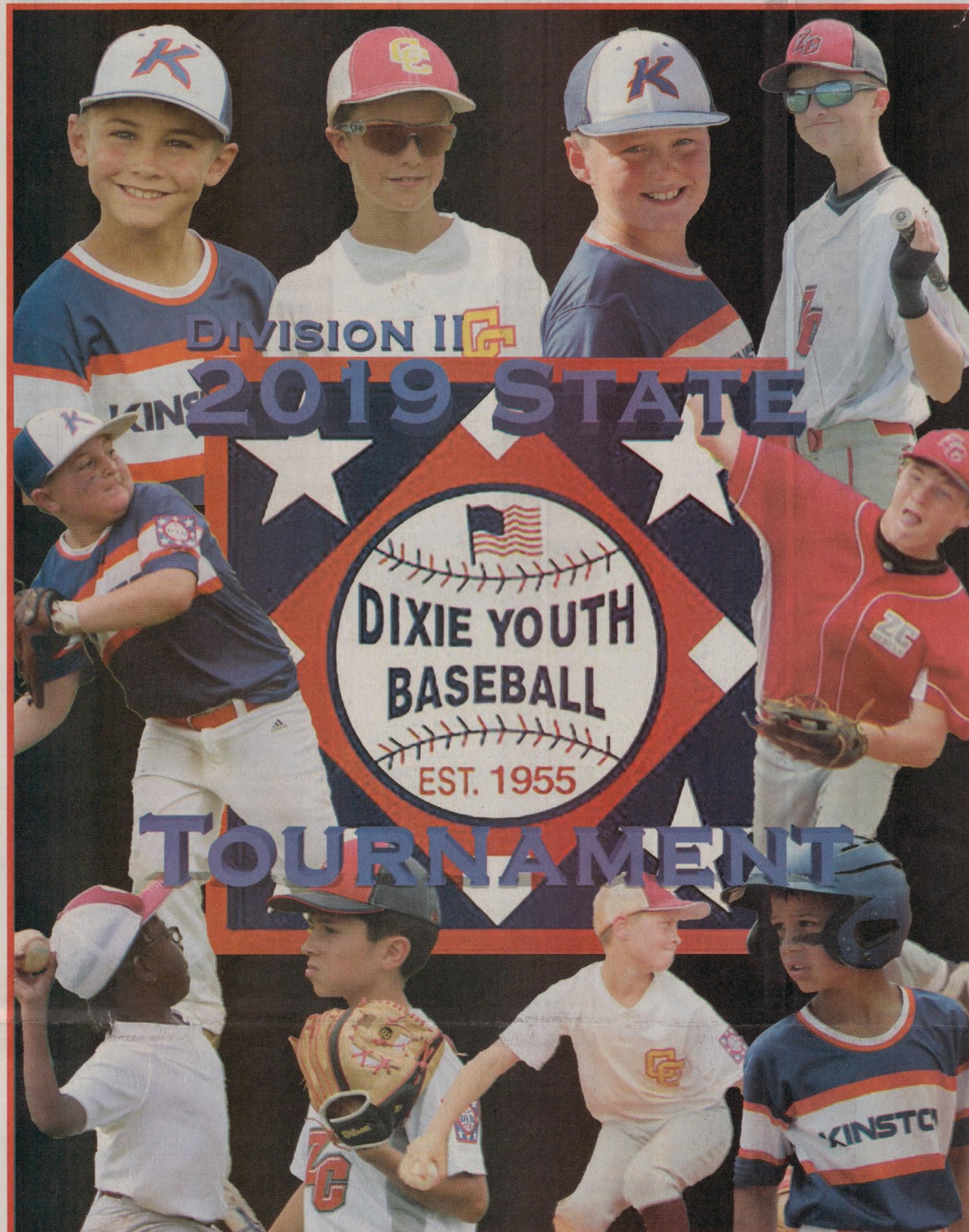
- 1 Cold Cut Combo
- 2 Spicy Italian
- 3 Black Forest Ham

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PHOTOS & GRAPHIC DESIGN BY LINDA HODGE, EDITOR OF THE ELBA CLIPPER



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*This project was supported by Subgrant #16-VA-K5-076 awarded by the Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Division of AFDO and the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or grant-making component.

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Coffee County 8U team at Dixie Youth Division II State Tournament

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Kinston 8U baseball team won the District 9 title in June, and that vaulted the team to participate in the Dixie Youth Baseball Division II State Tournament, which began last Friday, July 12, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

This team of youngsters, coached by Andy Sanders, and assistants Anthony Weeks, Justin Creech, and Brian Hawthorne was all smiles and filled with excitement Friday morning as they awaited the start of the opening ceremonies at the Bowers Sports Complex in Tuscaloosa. Division II teams in 8U, 10U and Ozone were all in town for the competition.

"First of all, we always give glory to God for giving us the ability to play the game," said Coach Sanders. "I have been extremely proud of these young guys for the hard work and dedication that not only led to an undefeated regular season and district tournament, but also for their focus and determination to get ready to play at state."

The Kinston 8U team went in to the state tourney with a 26-2 overall record, and Sanders said that was no small feat for the young guys. He said it really says a lot about the boys' dedication to the game.

"All credit for our successes this season goes to the boys," Sanders said. "They put in the time and effort, and it really showed."

Kinston opened play at the state tournament Friday afternoon against Beauregard, and the team vaulted to the win with a final score of 13-4. This set the Bulldogs up for an 11 a.m. matchup Saturday, July 13, with Haleyville.

Kinston just could not get things on track Saturday

morning as it was plagued by some uncharacteristic errors in the field, and Haleyville used strong at bats and good defense to hand Kinston its first loss in the tournament. The final of this game was 11-4 Haleyville.

The loss forced Kinston to have to play again at 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon. This time the young Bulldogs faced Abbeville, and they appeared right away to be ready to get back in the win column.

Kinston grabbed the early lead off of good, solid hits and base running, and the team kept Abbeville in check with solid defense. The final of this contest was Kinston 14, Abbeville 9.

Kinston's third game for Saturday was set for 7 p.m. but was moved up to around 5 p.m. due to the possibility of inclement weather. In this game, the Bulldogs faced eventual tourney winner South Bibb.

"South Bibb came in to the game against our team having not been scored on at all in the state tourney," Coach Sanders said. "While we were unable to get past them to continue our bid for the title, I was proud of our kids in that they were the first team that scored on South Bibb in Tuscaloosa."

In the end, Kinston was the only team to score any points against South Bibb in the tournament as Bibb faced Haleyville in the finals and kept them from scoring as well.

The Kinston-South Bibb game ended with a final score of 12-2.

"Our only losses at state came to the tourney winner and runner-up," Sanders said. "That is definitely something for us to take consolation in, and our boys got two wins at the state level. I am beyond proud of them for that!"

Coach Sanders also noted

that he definitely wanted to extend thanks to his assistant coaches for giving up their time throughout the season to help these young boys. He said their dedication to the team and the community is valued more than they will ever know.

Also, he said the support of the parents and the Kinston community was phenomenal, and he wanted all to know how much he and the team appreciates it.

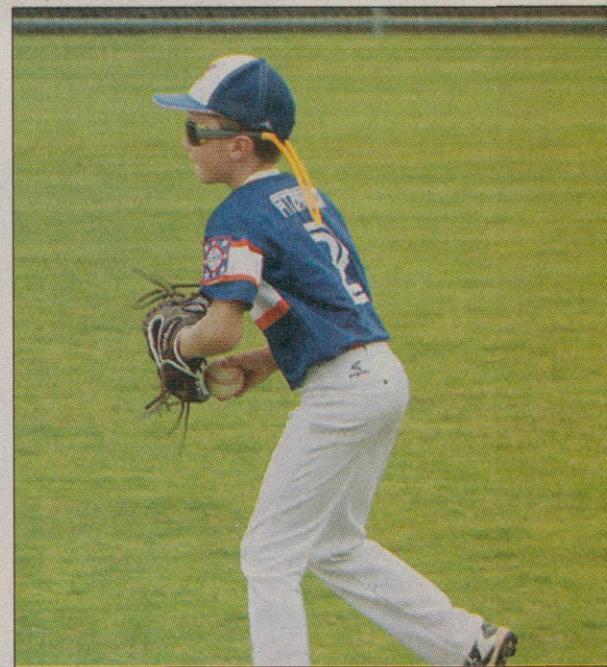
The Kinston 8U team members are: Ryan Blair, Evan Hilburn, Parker Weeks, Ryley Hawthorne, Bentley Smith, William Smith, Woody Tew, Jacob Fitzpatrick, Easton Parker, Luke Carnley, Ben Kirkpatrick, Tucker Davis, and Jhett Creech.



Easton Parker (#4) gets the Kinston 8U team off to a good start with a solid hit to begin the game against Beauregard on Friday afternoon at the state tournament in Tuscaloosa. Kinston won two games, including this one, before being ousted from the tourney.



Evan Hilburn (#7) shows a face full of concentration as he knocks one into the outfield in the win over Abbeville. This was a must-win game for the Kinston team.



Jacob Fitzpatrick (#2) gets ready to throw the ball back to the infield after a clean grab of a Haleyville base hit.



Jhett Creech (#00) awaits a throw to homeplate during Kinston's second game of the tournament.



Ryan Blair (#9) has his game face on!



Tucker Davis (#99) listens to Coach Justin Creech after getting a base hit in the opening game against Beauregard.



Parker Weeks (#12) prepares to throw the ball after fielding it during the Haleyville game.



Rylen Hawthorne (#34) makes a throw from first to third baseman Evan Hilburn in the game one win.

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Rylen Hawthorne (#34

Coffee County 10U team at Dixie Youth Division II State Tournament

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County 10U Dixie Youth Baseball team represented District 9 at the Division II State Tournament last weekend in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The Coffee County team was comprised of players from Elba and New Brockton. The team qualified for the state tournament after winning its District Tournament in June.

"I am extremely proud of this team and what they have accomplished this year," said Elba Parks and Recreation director Greg Hanchey. "They will forever be remembered as one of the inaugural teams to participate in the Dixie Youth Division II State Tournament."

The tournament was held at the Bowers Sports Complex in Tuscaloosa, and began with opening ceremonies Friday, July 12, at 10:30 a.m. This included an introduction of all the team participating in the 8U, 10U and Ozone age divisions.

The Coffee County team took the field Friday afternoon for its first game of the state tournament battling South Bibb. It was a super close contest staying tied each inning all the way until the fifth when South Bibb

took a two point lead. From there, things went downhill for the Coffee County team, and it suffered its first loss of the tournament with a final score of 20-8.

The opening game loss placed Coffee County in the early game Saturday morning, and the team faced Fayette at 9 a.m. The youngsters from Coffee County showed they were not ready to pack their bags just yet, and battled the entire game.

Good pitching and defense allowed the Coffee County players to hold Fayette to only one run the entire game. Coffee County combined clutch hitting and good base running off of some walks to score six runs in the game.

The 6-1 Coffee County win advanced the team to a 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon matchup against the Phil Campbell 10U team.

Phil Campbell proved to be too much for the Coffee County team, however, as they knocked Coffee County out of the state tournament Saturday afternoon with a final score of 12-4.

"The future is bright for every single one of these fine young men," Hanchey said regarding the Coffee County 10U team. "I also want to commend the parents and their unwavering support throughout the year."

Hanchey added that he would be remiss if he did not thank the team's coaches for their hard work and dedication as well.

"I definitely want to extend a huge thank you to

Ashton McKelvy, Blake Wood, and Brandon Adkison for their time and commitment to this team," he said. "They are all great guys, and I appreciate them so much."

In conclusion, Hanchey said he hoped the combined team of Elba and New Brockton players to form the Coffee County 10U all-star team had led to friendships among the players that would last a lifetime along with the memories the youngsters made participating in the state tournament.

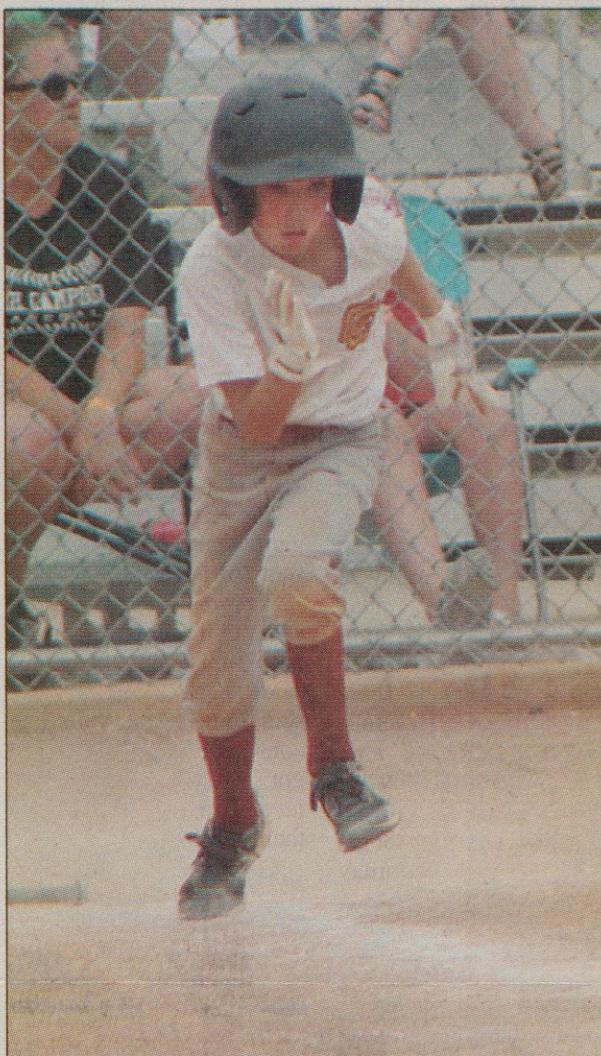
The Coffee County 10U team members are: Easton McKelvy, Jaden Deaudry Baker, James Cole Shehee, Powell Timothy Bane, Caden Zyan Kyles, Levi Trace Martin, James Griffin Wood, Colton William Starling, William Jeff Adkison, Dawson Keith Smith, Kylen Radcliffe, and Cayden Wallace. Coaches are Ashton McKelvy, Blake Wood, and Brandon Adkison.



William Adkison (30) leaps for the ball as a South Bibb player steps on the bag at second in the first game of the state tourney for the Coffee County 10U team. Also pictured is Easton McKelvy.



Dawson Smith (#15) takes off from first in the Saturday morning win against Fayette.



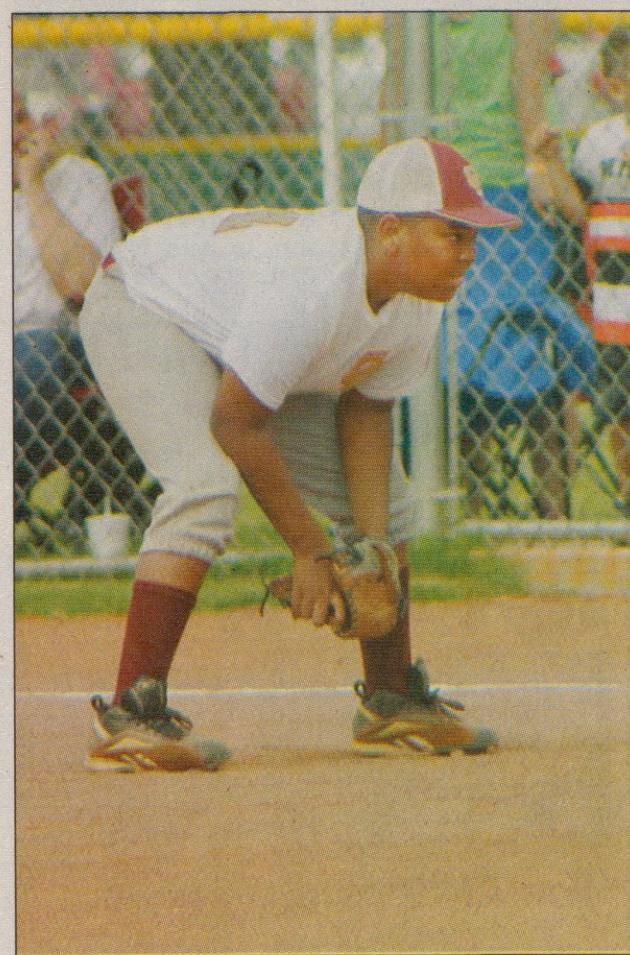
Easton McKelvy (#17) leaves the box after striking a base hit in the final game for Coffee County.



Kylen Radcliffe slides safely into home after a passed ball from the pitcher.



Cole Shehee (#3) slides safely into third during the Saturday game agains Fayette. Shehee would eventually score for his team adding to the Coffee County lead.



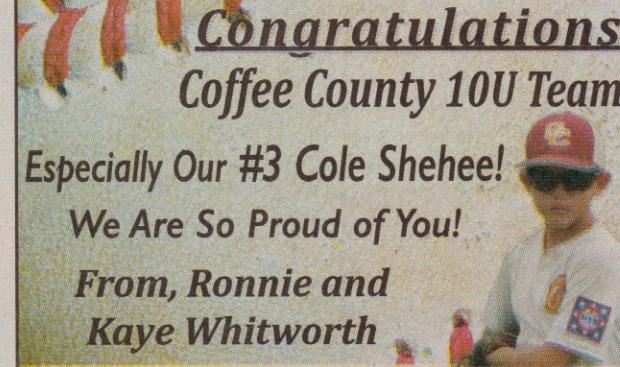
First baseman Caden Kyles watches the ball early in the game Saturday against Fayette.



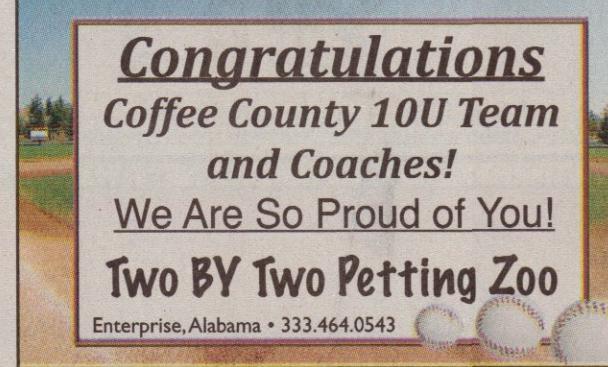
Levi Martin (#16) squares up for a bunt in game action for Coffee County.



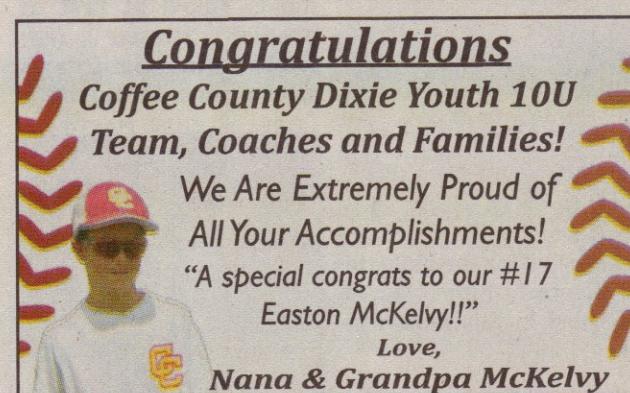
Third baseman Cayden Wallace (#2) chases down a Fayette base runner for an out!



Congratulations
Coffee County 10U Team
Especially Our #3 Cole Shehee!
We Are So Proud of You!
From, Ronnie and
Kaye Whitworth



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Coffee County 10U All Stars!!
We are so proud of You!
You did great at State!!
We especially love our
#15 Dawson Smith!
Keith and Gwen Smith



Congratulations
Coffee County 10U Team
and Coaches!
We Are Super
Proud of You!
City Of ELBA

Zion Chapel Ozone team at Dixie Youth Division II State Tournament

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Zion Chapel Dixie Youth Baseball Ozone team (12U) qualified for the inaugural Division II State Tournament last month in winning the District Nine title, and last weekend the team represented its community in the State Tournament in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

The tournament was held at the Bowers Sports Complex in Tuscaloosa beginning Friday, July 12, and continuing through Monday, July 15th.

Zion Chapel's Ozone team participated in the opening ceremonies for the tournament Friday morning, and this included an introduction of all teams playing in the tournament along with welcome speeches from several Tuscaloosa area officials. Tournament play began that afternoon.

Zion Chapel opened play Friday afternoon with a 7-2 win over Lamar County.

On Saturday morning, July 13, the Rebels met Lexington for their second game of the tournament. This was a close, back and forth game throughout the six innings played.

Zion Chapel jumped out to an early lead, but by midway through the game, it was tied 6-6. At the end of the fourth inning, Lexington had grabbed what appeared

to be a commanding lead at 7-12, but the Rebels stormed back in the fifth.

Going in to the final inning, the score was Zion Chapel 12 and Lexington 13. The Rebels were unable to push any more runs across the plate in the final inning, and suffered their first loss of the state tournament with Lexington taking the win at 12-12.

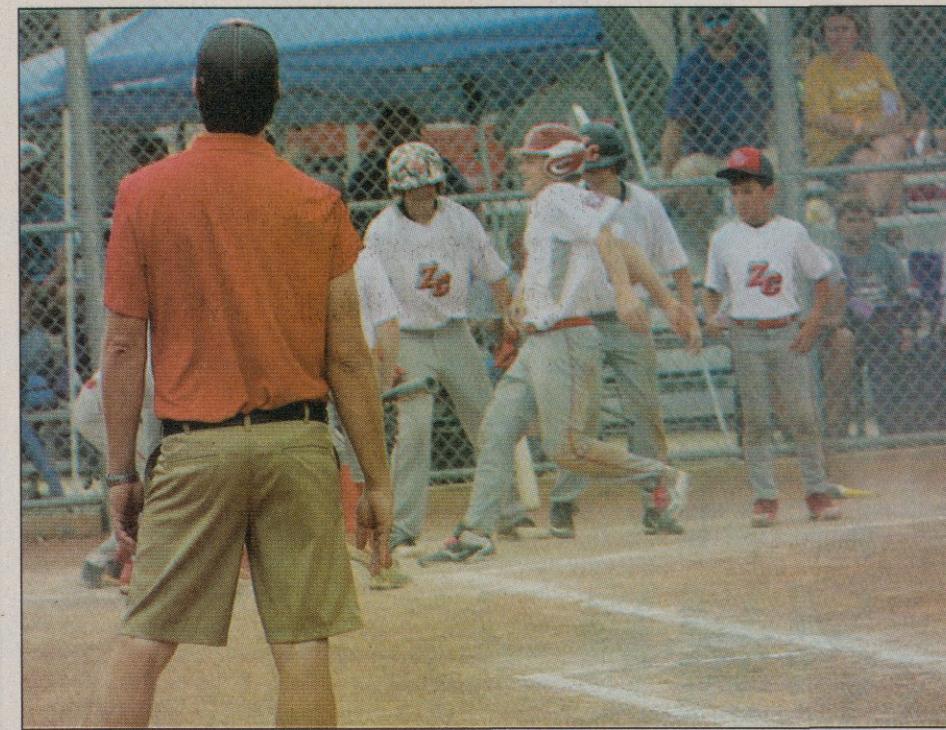
The loss set Zion Chapel up with a 1 p.m. Sunday, July 13, matchup with Central. This was a must-win game for the Rebels to remain in the tournament.

Once again, the Rebels jumped out to an early 2-0 lead; however, by the end of three, Central had taken the lead 2-3. The only other runs of the game would be scored by Central.

Zion Chapel was eliminated with the gut-wrenching 2-5 loss to Central on Sunday afternoon.

"I was very pleased with the way our kids competed all weekend," said Coach Dustin Stinson. "We did not play as fundamentally sound as we did throughout our district tournament, but our guys battled every game."

Stinson said there were times at state when things did not go Zion Chapel's way in the games, and the players could have given up. Instead, he said they



Zion Chapel Ozone players meet Mason Stuart (#11) at the plate during the Saturday game against Lexington. Stuart knocked a 'no doubt' homerun to keep Zion Chapel close in this contest.



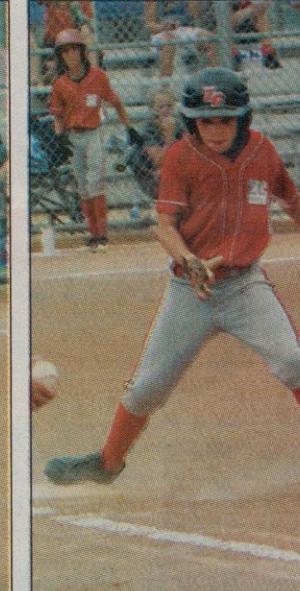
Brodie Stinson (#8) leaps for the ball during Sunday's game against Central in an attempt by Zion Chapel to catch the base runner stealing.



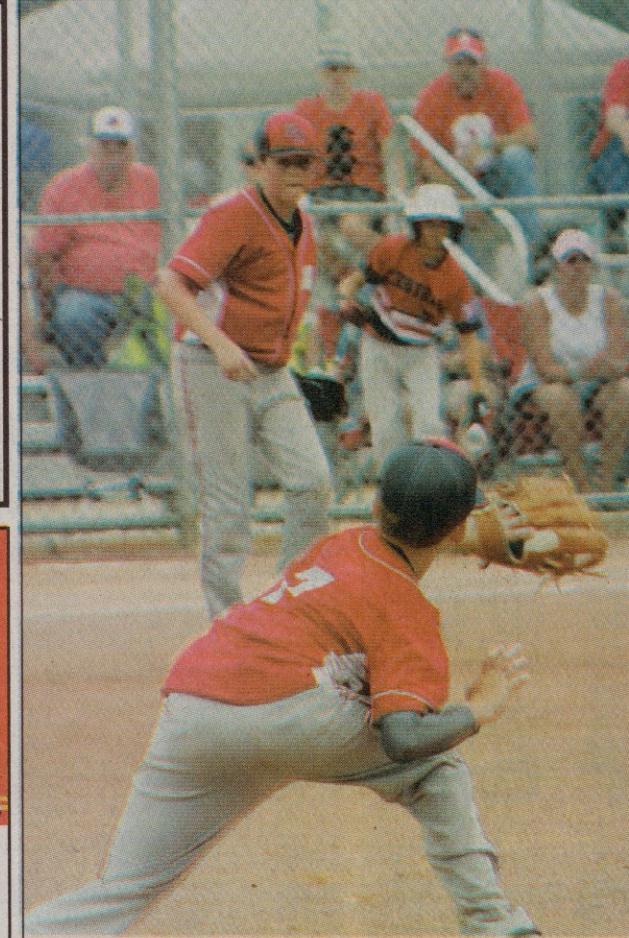
Jackson Adcock (#5) was giving it his all down the first base line in Sunday's game after making contact with the ball at the plate.



Brady Flowers (#22) beats out the throw to first in the game against Central.



Kavan Brown (#16) makes sure to keep his foot on first.



Austin Jordan (#12) stands guard at first as Brodie Stinson (#8) pitches in Saturday's game against Lexington.



Joseph LeGear (#24) in pregame warm-ups Saturday.



Ian Herbert heads for second Saturday in the game against Lexington. Herbert hit a solid double to make it standing up to second base.

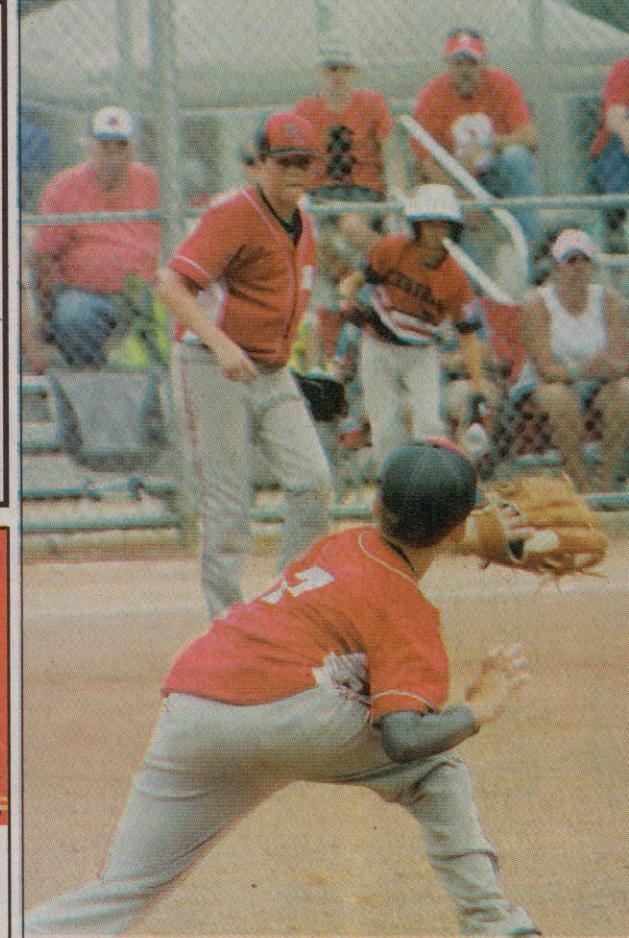
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The Elba Clipper congratulates all of our local teams on their outstanding performance at the state tourney!



First baseman Preston Eddins goes low for the ball late in the game Sunday against Central. Zion Chapel fought hard but came up just short in this must-win game.

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We are excited about *The Faith Race*, where children will discover God gives them power to run and win the race called life. As they have fun with a Pushcart Derby and building and racing cars, they will learn about five heroes of faith from the Faith Hall of Fame in Hebrews 11. Noah followed God's plan, Moses walked away, Rahab joined the winning team, Gideon overcame his fears, and David stayed in the race. Each day the children will learn how to use their faith and win the race just as these heroes did. More importantly, they will learn that God is the real hero because it is His power—the Holy Ghost—that fuels us to win the race!

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